

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035213
ORIGIN EUR-12

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-----101698 101748Z /43
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EEWT, UR, US

SUBJECT:BUSINESS FACILITATION MEETING

REF: STATE 25693 AND PREVIOUS

1. DURING FEB 9 CALL ON HIM BY NAZAROV AND TISHCHENKO OF
USSR TRADE REPRESENTATION, EUR/SOV DEPUTY DIRECTOR EDGAR
RAISED SUBJECT OF RESUMING BUSINESS FACILITATION MEETINGS.
WHEN SOVIETS REPLIED THAT THEY EXPECTED NEXT ONE TO TAKE
PLACE IN WASHINGTON, FEB 22, EDGAR POINTED OUT US CONSIDERS
IT DESIRABLE TO HAVE NEXT MEETING IN MOSCOW, BUT THAT
EMBASSY MOSCOW'S ATTEMPTS TO ARRANGE ME-TING WITH
MANZHULO HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

2. NAZAROV SAID HE WAS SURPRISED THAT US SIDE IS
SENSITIVE TO THIS MATTER SINCE IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT
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"THE MAIN IDEA WAS TO HAVE MEETINGS" AND THAT THE AGREEMENT
TO HOLD MEETINGS DID NOT PROVIDE FOR ALTERNATE MEETINGS IN
MOSCOW AND WASHINGTON. EDGAR EXPLAINED THAT, WHILE THE
MINUTES OF THE SIXTH JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION DID NOT
SPECIFY ALTERNATE SITES, THIS ARRANGEMENT HAD BEEN MADE BY
COMMERCE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY REICH, KEN SKOUG AND

MANZHULO HIMSELF DURING 1977 LOS ANGELES TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING.

3. NOTING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN FOUR MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND ONLY ONE IN MOSCOW, EDGAR CONFIRMED IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO ALTERNATE SITES SINCE MANY OF THE MATTERS US WANTS TO RAISE CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVELY HANDLED IN MOSCOW. IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET EXCUSES THAT MANZHULO IS "VERY BUSY MAN", EDGAR SAID US SIDE WISHES TO MEET WITH SOVIET DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITIES AND CITED MANZHULO'S PAST PERSONAL EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE TO COOPERATE ON THIS QUESTION. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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